

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 EURE-00 CPR-01 SCCT-01 SY-05

FBIE-00 USSS-00 SAJ-01 DHA-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OPR-02 A-01

OC-05 CCO-00 NEA-10 SCA-01 /093 W

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O 121357Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1096

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 3780

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET PROTEST RE NEW YORK BOMBING

REF: MOSCOW 3289

1. AFTER DISCUSSING SOVIET CSCE CONFERENCE PROPOSALS WITH ME (SEPTTEL), KORNIYENKO MADE STRONG PROTEST RE EXPLOSION AT AEROFLOT OFFICE IN NEW YORK. HE THEN HANDED ME NON-PAPER ON THIS MATTER. OUR UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION FOLLOWS:

2. BEGIN TEXT. "THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE USSR IN A MOST SERIOUS MANNER CALLS THE ATTENTION OF THE EMBASSY TO THE FACT THAT, DESPITE OFFICIAL ASSURANCES BY THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT, CRIMINAL ACTS AGAINST SOVIET ESTABLISHMENTS AND CITIZENS IN THE UNITED STATES CONTINUE. THESE ACTS NOT ONLY DISTURB THE NORMAL WORK OF THE SOVIET INSTITUTIONS, BUT ALSO CREATE A DIRECT THREAT TO THE SECURITY AND LIFE OF SOVIET PEOPLE.

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"FOR EXAMPLE, ON THE NIGHT OF MARCH 8, 1976, A TERRORIST

ACT WAS CARRIED OUT AGAINST THE AEROFLOT OFFICE IN NEW YORK. THE EXPLOSION, CARRIED OUT BY MALEFACTORS, WAS OF GREAT FORCE, AND ONLY THROUGH A COINCIDENCE OF CIRCUMSTANCES DID NOT LEAD TO INJURY OR LOSS OF LIFE. ALTHOUGH THE PERSONS WHO PLANNED AND CARRIED OUT THE EXPLOSION MAKE NO SECRET OF THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THIS BANDIT-LIKE ACT, THEY REMAIN UNPUNISHED, AS HAS HAPPENED IN EARLIER ANALOGOUS INCIDENTS.

"THE UNBRIDLED, HOSTILE CAMPAIGN AGAINST SOVIET CITIZENS WORKING IN THE SOVIET MISSION TO THE UN AND THE SECRETARIAT OF THE UN CONTINUES, ACCOMPANIED BY THREATS OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE. A PROVOCATORY ROLE IN THIS IS BEING PLAYED BY CERTAIN AMERICAN MEDIA, WHICH TO ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES ARE INSTIGATING ZIONIST AND EMIGRANT ORGANIZATIONS OF ALL KINDS TO COMMIT OUTRAGEOUS ACTS.

"IT IS COMPLETELY CLEAR THAT EXPLOSIONS, SHOTS, AND CALLS FOR PHYSICAL VIOLENCE AGAINST OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIONS OF FOREIGN STATES NOT ONLY CONTRADICTS INTERNATIONAL LAW AND AMERICAN INTERNAL LAW, BUT ALSO ARE INCOMPATIBLE WITH ELEMENTARY NORMS ACCEPTED IN CIVILIZED SOCIETY.

"A SITUATION OF THIS NATURE, WHICH HAS BEEN CREATED AS A RESULT OF WHAT FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES HAS BEEN THE INACTIVITY OF AMERICAN AUTHORITIES OBLIGATED TO INSURE NORMAL WORKING CONDITIONS FOR, AND THE SECURITY OF, REPRESENTATIONS OF FOREIGN STATES AND THEIR EMPLOYEES, IS INTOLERABLE.

"THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DECISIVELY PROTESTS THE FAILURE OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT TO TAKE EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO PROVIDE FOR THE SECURITY OF SOVIET INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR PERSONNEL IN THE USA, AND EMPHASIZES THAT ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY CONSEQUENCES RESTS ON THE GOVERNMENT OF THE USA." END TEXT.

3. IN RESPONSE, I SAID THAT I REGRET THIS AND SIMILAR INCIDENTS AND EXPRESSED OUR CONTINUING CONCERN ABOUT THIS MATTER. IT WAS FORTUNATE, I POINTED OUT, THAT THERE
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WERE NO INJURIES, THAT THERE WAS A POLICEMAN ON DUTY AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE AND THAT THIS LESSENERED THE DAMAGE TO THE BUILDING. WE HAVE DONE AND WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE, I SAID, TO PREVENT FURTHER OCCURRENCES OF THIS KIND. WE HAVE HAD EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS IN NEW YORK, TAKEN EXTRA MEASURES TO PROTECT SOVIET SECURITY, INCREASED THE NUMBER OF POLICE ON DUTY AND ASSIGNED SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES TO PROTECT SOVIET

OFFICIALS. WE HAVE TALKED TO THE MAYOR AND CHIEF OF POLICE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL. STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN AND ARE BEING TAKEN BY U.S. AUTHORITIES TO DEAL WITH THIS SITUATION. I THEREFORE CANNOT ACCEPT, I SAID, THE STATEMENT THAT THE U.S. SIDE IS INACTIVE IN THIS REGARD.

4. KORIYENKO REPLIED THAT THE SOVIETS WERE TALKING ABOUT EFFECTIVE MEASURES. EXPRESSIONS OF REGRET ARE ALL RIGHT, "BUT WE SEE NO EFFECTIVENESS" IN THE MEASURES UNDERTAKEN. CONSIDERABLE TIME HAS PASSED SINCE THE SHOOTING INCIDENT INTO ONE OF OUR APARTMENTS IN RIVERDALE, AND YET THERE HAVE BEEN NO ARRESTS IN THAT CASE. WE SEE NO RESULTS WHATSOEVER, HE SAID. ACTUAL PERPETRATORS OF THESE CRIMES ADMIT THEIR GUILT ON TV AND CALL FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES STATIONED IN THE U.S. THIS CLEARLY VIOLATES U.S. LAW AND YET NO ACTION IS TAKEN AGAINST SUCH PEOPLE. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE TALK AND MUCH WRITTEN BUT NOTHING IS ACTUALLY DONE.

5. IN RESPONSE, I POINTED OUT THAT OUR CITIZENS ENJOY EVERY POSSIBLE LEGAL PROTECTION AGAINST ARBITRARY ARREST AND THIS MADE IT DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM. HOWEVER, WE UNDERSTOOD SOVIET CONCERNS AND WOULD CERTAINLY CONVEY THIS PROTEST TO WASHINGTON.

6. COMMENT. KORNIYENKO'S PROTEST WAS, BOTH IN SUBSTANCE AND IN MANNER OF PRESENTATION, IN SOMEWHAT LOWER KEY THAN HIS LAST DEMARCHE ABOUT SECURITY OF SOVIET PERSONNEL IN THE U.S. (REFTEL), DURING WHICH HE SPECIFICALLY IMPLIED THAT ACTION MIGHT BE TAKEN AGAINST AMERICAN PERSONNEL IN THE USSR IF SUCH INCIDENTS DO NOT CEASE. ALSO NOTEWORTHY IS FACT THAT SOVIETS DID NOT THIS TIME, AS OPPOSED TO
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PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, ACCUSE U.S. AUTHORITIES OF "CONNIVANCE" (POPUSTILELSTVO) IN THESE ACTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BOMBING, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, POLICE PROTECTION RIGHTS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL HARASSMENT, BUILDINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW03780
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760094-0387
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760367/aaaacgsf.tel
Line Count: 157
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MOSCOW 3289
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <31 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET PROTEST RE NEW YORK BOMBING
TAGS: PFOR, UR, US
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006